

2 December 1986
MJN 8617

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Jordan Bureau--November 1986

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. In an effort to resolve the sporadic receipt of Egyptian weekly publications and to centralize Egyptian press coverage responsibilities, the bureau has begun a duplicate arrangement for the receipt of publications through a second local bookstore/news agent. Contacts with the central publications distributor of Jordan revealed that all publications cleared by the Press and Publications Department are received by the central distributor and then dispatched to the local bookstores. However, the central distributor does not have an up-to-date list of the publications received from the Department. If the current arrangement proves unsuccessful, the bureau will initiate a contractual arrangement with the central distributor for direct service, at least for selected publications.

2. The Iraqi newspapers AL-JUMHURIYAH and AL-THAWRAH are still not being received at the bureau. Local distributors continue to cite a dispute, which is not described in detail, with the Iraqi supplier. Bureau continues its efforts to check alternative sources.

3. With the announcement by Damascus Domestic Service on 15 November that Syrian President Al-Asad would deliver "an important speech" before the 16 November opening of the 21st conference of the General Federation of Trade Unions, and since this was Al-Asad's first major public forum after the UK decision to break relations and the withdrawal of the U.S. ambassador to Syria, the bureau realigned its staffing requirements to handle expected reaction to these issues. However, Al-Asad used the occasion to address economic problems, reiterate his opposition to terrorism and to again propose the formation of an international committee to define terrorism. The 87-minute address yielded a two-take Immediate out-of-turn excerpt on his terrorism proposal, but no bombshell on relations with the United States.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Four monitors received PSI's during the month:
[redacted] to FBN-8/3 on the 9th, and [redacted]

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to FBN-9/3 on the 23d.


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III. VISITS

A. To the Bureau

1.  Chief MEB/AG 5-8 November for area orientation and consultation.

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2. Regional Engineer  18-21 November for bureau familiarization and technical consultations.

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Chief, Jordan Bureau

ATT: Monthly Production Report